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Lisbon Public Schools

School District No. 19

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"Providing Equal Opportunities for Employees and Students"

January 7, 2021

Honorable Holmberg and members of Appropriations Committee:

The Lisbon Public Schools is in opposition to any cut in funding to the Center of Distance Education (CDE) as part of the Career and Technology Education budget. Any cut to the funding to CDE could result in increased costs for our school district. We have used and continue to use CDE for credit recovery, electives and support for our SmartLab®. I have worked with CDE for over 40 years in providing top quality courses for our students when we did not have qualified staff members who could teach those courses. Working together, NDCDE and LPS have moved students from possible dropouts to high school graduates. The support we have received from CDE for our SmartLab® and its STEM curriculum has been excellent. STEM curriculum helps move our students to become ready for many skilled positions and additional training after high school. When Governor Burgum closed our schools on March 15, 2020, the first call I made was to Dr. Matt Lonn of CDE and he helped our staff develop meaningful distance learning for our students. They continue to support our distance-learning students today. Our small rural school needs partners like CDE so that we can provide opportunities for our students. Please do not cut NDCDE budget by \$508,190 as proposed in the Governor's budget.

Respectfully,

Steven L. Johnson, Ph.D.